

# Missouri State Archives

## Finding Aid [998.180]

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### MANUSCRIPT COLLECTIONS

#### Steamboat and Train Bills of Lading

*Abstract:* Bills of lading from the Steamboat *Benton* and several Missouri-Kansas-Texas Railroad stations in and out of Missouri, 1882-1898.

*Extent:* 2 folders

*Physical Description:* Paper

*Location:* Missouri State Archives; Stacks

### ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

*Alternative Formats:* None

*Access Restrictions:* None

*Publication Restrictions:* None

*Preferred Citation:* [item description], [date]; *Steamboat and Train Bills of Lading*, Record Group 998.180; Missouri State Archives, Jefferson City.

*Acquisition Information:* Gift; Accession #1990-0070

*Processing Information:* Processing completed by EW on 12/23/2016. Updated by EW on 03/24/2021.

### HISTORICAL AND BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

The Steamboat *Benton* was a wood-burning boat that ran freight up the Missouri River from St. Louis to Fort Benton, Montana. The boat was owned by Power-Townsend Company, formerly known as T.C. Power and Bro. Company. The company was established in 1867 and remained in business for 97 years when it closed in 1964. The boat was sold to Boland & Sims out of South Dakota in 1889. The *Benton* started service in 1875 and made 44 trips to Fort Benton from St. Louis and back. It was a stern wheel 200 feet in length with the capacity of 500 tons of freight and 500 people. In 1896, it was severely damaged when a tornado hit St. Louis, but it was

repaired and was soon back in service. On July 19, 1897, the *Benton* collided with a combination drawbridge and pier in Sioux City, Iowa.

The Missouri-Kansas-Texas Railroad has a long, rich history in Missouri. It was incorporated in 1870 and was the first railroad to reach Texas. For more information, see the Katy Railroad Historical Society at [www.katyrailroad.org](http://www.katyrailroad.org).

## ADDITIONAL DESCRIPTIVE INFORMATION

### Related Collections

MS174 Huber Ledger Books (steamboat records)

MS291 "Walks on Water:" The Impact of Steamboating on the Lower Missouri River  
Manuscript (steamboat history (draft))

MS385 Donald Carl Butzer Collection (steamboat images)

MS484 Edmund Jones Photo Album (steamboat images)

RG133 Missouri Adjutant General (for Mormon War, etc.)

RG325 Missouri State Board of Equalization Railroad Journals, 1872-1903 (unprocessed)

Giffen, Lawrence Everett. "Walks in Water:" Steamboating on the Lower Missouri River.  
Jefferson City, MO: Giffen Enterprises, 2001. Call No. 386 G457.

Masterson, V.V. The Katy Railroad and the Last Frontier. Columbia: University of Missouri, 1988. Call #R 385.0978 M3939.

Wiseman, Mike. Trackin' the Past: Families of the Eagle. Jefferson City: M&R Publishers, 2008. Call #R 625.1 W755.

### Additional External Resources

[Lexington Wharfage Register](#) available online through Missouri Digital Heritage, courtesy of Battle of Lexington State Historic Site.

The State Historical Society of Missouri in Columbia maintains collection [#R110 Anchor Milling Company Shipping Records, 1897-1911](#).

"The Steamboat Benton Made a Short Stop at the Foot of Francis Street Last Evening," The St. Joseph Daily Herald. June 18, 1897: p. 3.

"Steamboat Benton, sinking, Sioux City, Iowa," State Historical Society of North Dakota Photograph Collection C. Photograph by L.C. Cooper of Sioux City. Image C1361: 1897.  
<http://digitalhorizonsonline.org/cdm/ref/collection/uw-ndshs/id/2375>

“Steamer Benton a Tough Boat to End, Locke of Benton Recounts Trip Made to Fort Benton 1881,” The River Press. August 1956.

## BILLS OF LADING, 1882-1898

*Arrangement:* By Part

### Scope and Content

This original ledger book has been disbound and placed in Mylar for preservation purposes. The first part concerns the Steamboat *Benton*. Part II concerns the Missouri, Kansas & Texas (MK&T) Railway, which today is nicknamed the Katy Trail. The bills of lading list contents and values of cargo and are signed by an assessor attesting to the contents for insurance purposes.

### Container List

Location	Box	Folder	Contents	Date
	13	1	Part I, pp. 1-14: Bills of lading for the steamboat <i>Benton</i> in St. Louis and Glasgow, MO. Attested to by Riggs & Gilpin.	1882-1891
	13	2	Part II, pp. 15-58: Bills of lading for the MK&T Railway in St. Louis, MO, Rocheport, MO, Cincinnati, OH, Moberly, MO, Providence, MO, Huntsdale, MO, Hartsburg, MO, Gooch's Mill via Boonville, MO, Rutland, MO, Allsville via Sedalia, MO, North Jefferson, Wilton, MO, Cedar City, MO, and Harrisburg, MO.	1895-1898